

Appl No. 09/621,408
Amdt. dated April. 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed February 20th, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please replace all claims of record with the following:

1. An apparatus for connecting a liquid filter to a liquid source and for separating volatile contaminants from the liquid, comprising:
 - a cylindrical block including a first end and a second end and a radially outer peripheral surface;
 - a central outlet bore extending from the first end to the second end of the block;
 - an inlet passage radially spaced apart and isolated from the central bore and extending from the first end to the second end of the block;
 - an annular evaporation channel formed into the first end of block and located radially outwardly from the inlet passage and having a base surface spaced from the second end of the block;
 - a cover on the first end of the block for closing the evaporation channel;
 - a purified liquid outlet channel adjacent the base of the annular channel and extending the outer peripheral surface of the block;
 - a metering orifice isolated from the inlet passage and extending from the central bore to a portion of the annular channel that is spaced above the purified liquid outlet channel such that a thin film of oil is formed on a surface of the evaporation channel;
 - a vapor vent channel extending from a part of the annular channel that is positioned above the purified liquid outlet channel and extending to an outer peripheral surface of the block;
 - whereby the first end of the block is attached to the liquid source such that a contaminated liquid is directed into the inlet passage and purified liquid is returned to the source via the central outlet bore, whereby the second end of the block is attached to an end of the liquid filter such that contaminated liquid is directed into the filter and partially purified liquid is directed from the filter into a central outlet bore, whereby partially purified liquid from the central outlet bore is directed into the annular evaporation chamber via the metering orifice, whereby volatile contaminants are separated from the partially purified oil in the evaporation chamber, whereby purified oil exits the evaporation chamber via the purified liquid outlet and volatile contaminants exit the evaporation chamber via the vapor vent channel.